

ITALIAN OPERA
QUARTET

S. A. GORLINSKY

under the auspices of Comus Art Society Ltd.

presents

Italian Opera Quartet

SILVANA ZANOLLI

(Soprano)

MARIA LUISA GAVIOLI

(Coloratura Soprano)

ISIDORO ANTONIOLI

(Tenor)

OTELLO BORGONOVO

(Baritone)

At the piano—JEANNIE REDDIN

— *Management:* —

S. A. GORLINSKY LTD.

35 Dover Street, London, W.1

Programme

I.

1. ISIDORO ANTONIOLI and OTELLO BORGONOVO

In vano, Alvaro (Act IV) ("The Force of Destiny") *Verdi*

Don Carlo, wounded in a duel with Don Alvaro, comes to seek vengeance to the monastery where Alvaro has taken refuge as a monk. Carlo remarks on the futility of Alvaro's retirement and scorns his "hypocrite's garb." Alvaro, who had believed Carlo to be dead, pleads with him to believe that his sister Leonora was not dishonoured, but Carlo accuses Alvaro of cowardice and strikes him across the face. Alvaro can no longer control himself and the two rush off to fight another duel.

2. SILVANA ZANOLLI

Un bel dì ("Madam Butterfly") *Puccini*
(One Fine Day)

Butterfly's faith that her husband Pinkerton will return one day from America remains unshaken, for he promised he would come back when the robins were nesting. She gazes towards the harbour into which his ship will sail, and describes the scene of his return, which she has often pictured to herself.

3. OTELLO BORGONOVO

La Morte di Roderigo ("Don Carlos") *Verdi*
(Roderigo's Death)

Roderigo visits Don Carlos in prison and falls mortally wounded by a shot fired by an assassin in the pay of King Philip, who suspects him of treachery. He bids farewell to the world in this beautiful melody and dies happy, knowing that Carlos is to be freed.

4. MARIA LUISA GAVIOLI

So anch'io la virtù magica ("Don Pasquale") *Donizetti*
(I, too, thy magic virtues know)

Don Pasquale has threatened to disinherit his nephew, Ernesto, if he marries. Norina, a young widow, in love with Ernesto, solves the difficulty by going through a mock-marriage with Pasquale, and then giving him such a troublesome time that he is only too glad in the end to pass her on to his nephew. In this aria, Norina is reading a romance, and laughs at the idea that she can learn anything from the heroines of the age of chivalry.

5. ISIDORO ANTONIOLI

E lucevan le stelle ("Tosca")
(The stars were brightly shining)

Puccini

It is an affecting moment when the painter Cavaradossi is brought from his cell to the platform of the Castel Sant'Angelo, there, as he expects, to meet execution. He has written a farewell letter to Tosca poignantly expressing his sense of all he must lose. It is the hour before dawn and he feels an artist's regret for the beauty of the starlit firmament.

6. MARIA LUISA GAVIOLI and OTELLO BORGONOVO

Dunque io son ("Barber of Seville")

Rossini

Rosina asks Figaro who the young man was who sang beneath her window. The serenader was, in fact, Count Almaviva, but Figaro claims it was his cousin, a certain Signor Lindoro. He assures her Lindoro has fallen passionately in love with her and she gives him a note of encouragement to convey to her suitor.

7. SILVANA ZANOLLI and ISIDORO ANTONIOLI

Love Duet—Act I ("Madam Butterfly")

Puccini

Butterfly is in ecstasy after the wedding ceremony in which she has become the wife of Pinkerton, the American Naval Officer whose ship is in port. Unaware of the tragedy in store for them, they sing of their rapturous love, as fireflies twinkle in the garden and stars fill the sky.

8. ITALIAN OPERA QUARTET

Quartet from Act III ("La Bohème")

Puccini

Rodolfo and Mimi have decided to part and bid each other farewell. From the nearby tavern come sounds of a violent, yet not unusual, quarrel between Musetta, the coquette, and her lover, Marcello. They emerge and their shrill recriminations punctuate the gentle phrases of the lovers who realise finally they cannot face separation, now the time for decision has come.

INTERVAL

II.

9. MARIA LUISA GAVIOLI and ISIDORO ANTONIOLI

E il sol dell'anima ("Rigoletto")

Verdi

The Duke, in disguise, has waited outside Gilda's door, until her father, Rigoletto, has departed. To her surprise, the Duke steps out of the shadows and professes his love. She listens rapturously as he declares that "Love is the sun by which passion is kindled."

10. SILVANA ZANOLLI

Vissi d'arte ("Tosca")

Puccini

(Love and Music)

'Scarpia, the Chief of Police, has demanded that Tosca should submit to his embraces, as the price for the release of her lover. The rolling drums announce the march of the condemned prisoners to the gallows. Time grows short, and in her dilemma, Tosca, broken down by her grief, pleads to the Lord not to forsake her.

11. OTELLO BORGONOVO

Largo al Factotum ("Barber of Seville")

Verdi

This famous piece describes the activities of Figaro, the barber of Seville, who is in constant demand because of his ability to solve everybody's personal problems and to straighten out their difficulties. It's "Figaro here, Figaro there, Figaro wanted everywhere."

12. ISIDORO ANTONIOLI

Nessun Dorma ("Turandot")

Puccini

Turandot orders that "none shall sleep" until the name of the unknown Prince is discovered and a search is made of the city of Peking. Calaf (the Prince) is unmoved and expresses the conviction that he alone will reveal the secret, in this, one of Puccini's most melodious arias.

13. SILVANA ZANOLLI and OTELLO BORGONOVO

Dite alla giovane ("La Traviata")

Verdi

Alfredo's father, Germont, has called on Violetta and tells her that it has become impossible for his young daughter to marry the nobleman to whom she is betrothed, because of the shame brought on the Germont family by Alfredo's liaison with Violetta. He entreats Violetta to set Alfredo free, and after much heart-searching, she agrees to make the sacrifice. "Heaven will reward you," declares the grateful father.

14. MARIA LUISA GAVIOLI

Caro Nome ("Rigoletto")

Verdi

(Dearest name)

Gilda, alone in her garden, dreams of the handsome young man who has just left her. His name, she declares, is engraven on her very heart.

15. SILVANA ZANOLLI, ISIDORO ANTONIOLI and OTELLO BORGONOVO

Finale, Act V ("Faust")

Gounod

(Holy Angels)

In this well-known Trio, Marguerite sees Mephistopheles and recoils in terror, recognising him as the Evil One. She calls on God to protect her, whilst Faust cajoles her and Mephistopheles declares impatiently that it is time to flee.

(The right is reserved to change the programme if necessary)

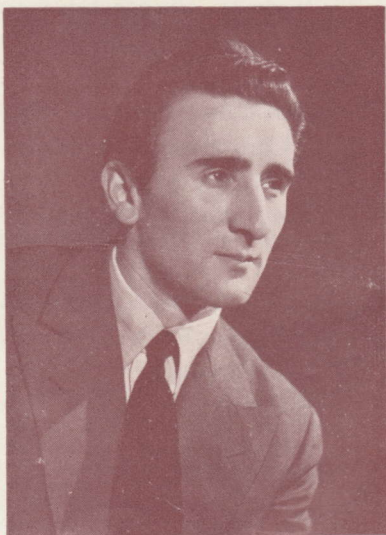


SILVANA ZANOLLI (Soprano)

It was at Covent Garden with the Scala Company in 1950 that this soprano was first heard in this country. Her performance in "Elisir d'Amore" won the high praise of the critics. Her career began through the training school run by La Scala, where she now has a permanent contract and sings regularly. She is well known in all the European opera houses, as well as in Brazil and the Argentine.

ISIDORO ANTONIOLI (Tenor)

This young tenor, only 25, was able to start his career at La Scala by heading the list of winners in a Vocal Examination organised by the Theatre. Among the operas in which he has taken part during past seasons at the Scala are "Gianni Schicchi" and "Lo Frate Innamorato." His pure tone and effortless top notes have won him a great reputation in Italy and in this country where he sang for the past two seasons in all the principal concert halls.





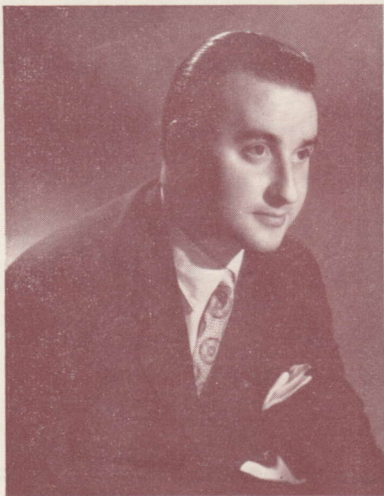
MARIA LUISA GAVIOLI

(Coloratura Soprano)

This young singer's progress has been more than usually rapid and she is already considered one of Italy's foremost coloratura sopranos. Her recent activities have taken her to all the major Italian and European opera houses, and she has recently sung regularly at La Scala. She is often heard in opera programmes over the Italian radio network.

OTELLO BORGONOVO (Baritone)

After studying in Rome, this baritone won the Scala competitions in 1949 which entitled him to training at their opera school. In 1951 he made his debut in "La Traviata" and since then has appeared with great success in Italy's chief opera houses, as well as in other European countries. He has often been heard in operatic broadcasts from the Italian radio stations and has recently appeared frequently on Television. He has also made several gramophone recordings.



Italian Opera Quartet

TOUR LIST

5 October	-	Victoria Hall	-	-	-	Hanley
6 „	-	St. George's Hall	-	-	-	Bradford
8 „	-	Town Hall	-	-	-	Middlesbrough
10 „	-	City Hall	-	-	-	Newcastle
14 „	-	City Hall	-	-	-	Sheffield
16 „	-	Free Trade Hall	-	-	-	Manchester
19 „	-	Albert Hall	-	-	-	Nottingham
20 „	-	Town Hall	-	-	-	Leeds
22 „	-	Town Hall	-	-	-	Birmingham
24 „	-	Gaumont Theatre	-	-	-	Cardiff
26 „	-	Colston Hall	-	-	-	Bristol
28 „	-	Central Hall	-	-	-	Newport
31 „	-	Odeon Theatre	-	-	-	Llanelly
3 November	-	Philharmonic Hall	-	-	-	Liverpool
4 „	-	St. Andrew's Hall	-	-	-	Glasgow
10 „	-	Town Hall	-	-	-	Huddersfield
12 „	-	De Montfort Hall	-	-	-	Leicester
14 „	-	Royal Festival Hall	-	-	-	London
16 „	-	Guildhall	-	-	-	Southampton